



Crosscut

◀ Toys from the 2022 braai – Mixer for the kitchen.

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Next Turners' meeting – 3rd April 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Making a variety of toy wheels by Willie Pretorius.

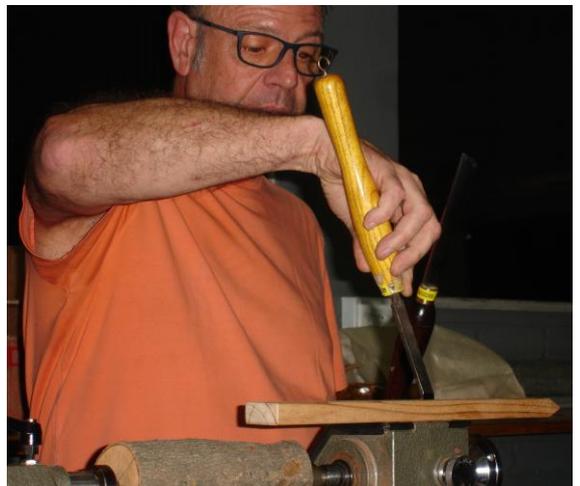
Next Main club meeting – 12 April 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Talk on the correct way to use hole-saws to prevent overheating by Willie and Graham.

New WWA Account number. **FNB 63026931287** – please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **full name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**.

News

Turners' meeting. Monday – 6th March 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. **Taming of the skew chisel.**

Barend van Heerden is a novice woodturner who was led astray by watching YouTube videos showing how easy it is to use a skew chisel. Despite discovering that this was not in fact the case, Barend decided to persist. He explained what he learned of the principles of using the skew for spindle work. In the picture, he is showing the differences between a rectangular and an oval skew chisel. Barend showed which part of the edge to use for the different cuts and how to avoid catches.



Main club meeting. Wednesday – 8th March 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – HiKoki cordless power tool demo – “All you want to know about Cordless Power Tools” given by Kevin Steele from Matus who are the distributors of HiKoki power tools. These were previously known as Hitachi, but due to trademark issues have been rebranded as HiKoki.

On the left is the chairman testing the cordless jigsaw. Mark MacDonnell was the lucky winner of HiKoki drill-driver combo set raffle draw.

As a distributor, Matus doesn't sell tools directly to the end user, but service and spare



parts are available directly from them.

Reminder - New WWA Account number. Due to ongoing difficulties in changing signatories and poor service from Nedbank, the committee resolved to change banks. Anesh, our new treasurer has opened an account with **FNB** and requests that all payments be made into this new account: **63026931287** – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment.

Access times for **Made in Workshop for WWA members** from Graham Swallow – WWA Chair:
MiW times for members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following:

WWA members CANNOT just pitch up and use machines unless they have booked them with MiW. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC machines of any kind.

Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking

Henry has also asked me to convey that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:

Henry – 083 269 9505

Josh – 083 768 7853

Trenton – 081 365 6039

Planning for 2023 Toymakers braai. If you have any suggestions on things you would like to change for the next braai, please approach a committee members with your suggestions. Concerns that arose last year were around how the ticket books are constructed that made them difficult to control and sell. We would also like encourage members who donate toys to put a label on them so we can credit your efforts in pictures for the newsletter.

Raffle prizes during the year. The committee is always on the look-out for raffle prizes through the year. Donations and purchase of prizes such as surplus tools from members are one option. Please approach a committee member if you can assist.

Hobby - X 2023 at the Kyalami exhibition centre will take place from the 4th to 7th May 2023. The shift roster and booking sheet will be available for completion at the April meetings.



Schedule for Regular Events at **Made in Workshop**

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 - Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501
[hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month.

Show & Tell meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

Toolboxes – A simple tool caddy for masonry tools.

Trevor Pope

More than thirty-five years ago, I attended an introductory bricklaying course at Corobrick in Edenvale, convened by the Brick Development Association. It consisted of 6 Saturday mornings of practical sessions of brick laying. Being young at the time, I coped with the bending and physical demands, but now when I do any similar work, I feel my age.

The course was an excellent introduction to the principles of layout, materials and some aspects of workmanship. I finished with some appreciation of the required skills and workmanship needed for good masonry work, so I can cast a critical eye over brickwork. I must say that very little brick work done these days meets the standards that were shown to us in the course. (We didn't meet those standards – that would have required a lot more practise...)

On the course we did a lot of building with stock bricks using mortar with no cement added. The mortar behaves the same as the real thing but can simply be reused for the next class by scraping it off the bricks and remixing it. The mortar sticking to the bricks was just hosed off and the bricks were left to dry. We learned how to work neatly and to keep everything square using lines and levels. One key lesson was - how to keep your working mortar at the right consistency so the bricks bed correctly as they are laid. A good daga-boy (as the assistant who mixed the mortar was called in the non-PC days) was a valuable asset, helping the brick-layer to be productive. Otherwise, time had to be spent remixing the mortar, that could be spent laying bricks. On the course, we had to mix our own mortar, which helped us appreciate what was required.

Sensibly, included with the R600- course fee, was an introductory set of tools so that everybody started at the same point. I still have and use those tools, and have added a few more.

At the time, to hold them, I bought a cheap red tool caddy shown in the picture on the right. However, when I added a few more tools, they overflowed the space. It was too small, but I lived with this for many years, as I didn't use them often.

I finally built a larger caddy out of plywood, shown in the above left picture.



This is a top view of the new caddy. The interior dimensions are 52 cm long by 24 cm wide by 11 cm high. The height of the carry handle in the centre is 16 cm.

The centre divider and the base are made from 18mm shutter ply and the rest from 12mm pine plywood. Two smaller dividers



are placed close to the centre and some smaller dividers are placed at one end for small items and tools like chisels to stand up in. The centre divider and the two smaller dividers are let into shallow dados in the base to help with aligning them.

The whole is simply screwed together using long chip-board type screws. I predrilled the holes for the screws to preclude any splitting, particularly when going into the end-grain of the 12mm ply. No glue was used, so it can be dismantled and the design changed if needed. With hindsight, the 18mm shutter ply parts are probably stronger than needed. Ply wood is a good material to use as it is strong for its weight; flat and regular, not warping easily; easy to cut and relatively cheap, particularly if you have offcuts to use.

Due to the grit and dirt, it will encounter with masonry work, I thought it would be helpful to make the caddy somewhat water resistant. The interior is finished with water-based varnish and the exterior with grey oil-based enamel that I had left over.



The above picture shows the tools laid out in front of the caddy.

The tools prescribed for the bricklaying course were:

Large trowel, mason's hammer, 1.8kg (4lb) club hammer, brick bolster (wide chisel), layout pins and line, layout blocks and line, pointing tool, 1m bubble level, gauge rod and a few nails, if I remember correctly.

Nearly all the tools were locally made – the trowel came from Vickers in Edenvale, the hammers and bolster from RW or Lasher, the 1m level from Rabone-Chesterman.

I've added two smaller trowels, which are useful for pointing and fine work. Also, the full-size trowel when loaded with mortar is heavy and after few minutes, my forearm just doesn't have the strength anymore. I can cope with the middle size for continuous work. There are a few more finishing tools, a metal float and some brushes. Brushes are useful for cleaning mortar from tools and places it isn't wanted (did I mention I'm a bit out of practise?) The chalk line is useful for setting out and marking cut lines. The rubber mallet is for bedding bricks and tiles. The narrow chisel is for a bit of demolition if needed.

The picture below shows the tools stored in the caddy. Most of them are ready to hand when needed. The level and gauge rod are shown at the bottom – they are 1m long so they are not stored in the caddy.



In case you are wondering: The gauge rod is used for setting out the intervals between the brick courses – this measurement is for a single brick and a single layer of mortar. For SABS standard bricks, the interval is set to 85mm. Before commencing to lay a row of bricks, called a course, a line is set out along the face of the wall, at the height above the previous course given by the gauge rod. Then as the bricks are laid, they are each tapped down so that the top, outside edge of each brick almost touches the line. Then the course will be level and straight. Notwithstanding this, frequent checking with the level is required to make sure all is plumb and level, otherwise the bricks must be knocked out before the mortar sets, so they can be relaid.

If the brick size changes, then a different gauge rod will be needed. In the past before standardisation, many brick-workers made their own sizes, which can be seen in some older buildings.